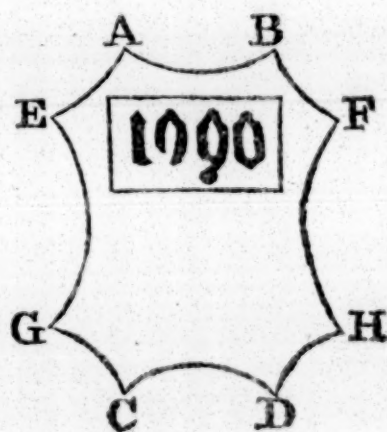


A DESCRIPTION Of the DATE

Mentioned in the *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 266. A^o 1700.

UPON an oblong piece of Wood, nearly Six feet and a Half long, and One foot broad, is a Sheild about Eight Inches high, and Six wide; the Sheild indented as under-noted: On each side (that is, to the Right and Left) of the Sheild; is a Lion Couchant, pretty well carved for those days; and behind each Lion (that is, still nearer the ends of the oblong piece of Wood) is an Unicorn Couchant Regardant; the Horn of One is wanting.

Upon the Sheild is a Label, upon which Label are Siphers of the Size and Shape here printed, being the exact copy of an Impression taken from those Siphers in *April* 1747.



The Sheild from A to C is about Eight Inches, E to F about Six Inches, A to B and C to D about Three Inches and a Half; from A to E, B to F, G to C, and D to H, about Two Inches. All the carving is in Relievo; that is, the Sheild, the Lions, and Unicorns, rise above the oblong piece of Wood; the Label rises above the Sheild; and the Siphers above the Label.

This piece of Wood is now placed near a Chamber-Windoor, in the back Front of a Brick House, in the occupation of Mr. *Bailey*, where it was put about the Year 1730, at the time of Rebuilding the old Timber House mentioned in the *Philosophical Transactions* for September and October 1700, No. 266.

The House is situate on the South Side of *High-Street*, in *Colchester*; near the Church, vulgarly called *St. Rumbald's*.

It is said the old House was the Dwelling of *Eudo*, Governor of this Town under *William Rufus*; the back Walls of it were very ancient, built with a mixture of Stone and Roman Brick, and with arched Passages like part of the *Jaol*; but the North Front, which is the Front to the Street, was of Timber. *William Rufus* began to reign in the Year 1087.

When the piece of Wood was first taken Notice of in the *Philosoph. Transactions* abovementioned, it was the Cell of a Windoor; the DATE hath become a Subject of Dispute among Virtuosi. Some maintain it proves that the *Arabic* Siphers were known to some of the Learned in *England* so early as the Year 1090. Others maintain these (Numeral Figures or) Siphers denote the Year 1490; Contending that the Third Figure from the Right Hand toward the Left, which is the place of Hundreds, must be the Antique 4, shaped thus 2.

The Criticism was first published by the Rev. Dr. *Wasse*, in the *Bibliotheca Literaria*, No. 10, printed at *London* Anno 1724; Repeated by Mr. *Ward*, in the *Philosophical Transactions* for December 1735, No. 439. The Plates in the *Transactions* are too small for judging, as to the Probability.

In the *Bibliotheca* it is alleged the first ° is but half as big as the other O. The Journies to *Essex* or *Northamptonshire* (proposed by Dr. *Wasse*) are too far for the Curiosity of most. This short Account may save that Trouble for *Essex*.

The Weight of the Criticism is best seen in the *Biblioth.* itself, N^o 10. p. 35. but as that Book is not in many Hands, the following is an Abstract: "The *Colchester* Inscription stands falsified with a Vengeance! I have seen it. Some fantastical "Knave, perhaps as late as the *Æra* of *Quakers*, has diminished the 2 of his lower Parts, and left it thus, °; for it "plainly appears to any discerning Eye, that the first O of the pretended 1090, is but half as big as the other. "Being sure in the *Colchester Inscription*, I shall venture a Fling at the Chimney, though I never saw that. You give "it M^o133; I read M²E33; the same Chissel-work diminishing the 2, and cutting off the Horns of the E, which was "for C.

"So the Date stands 1433. Who don't believe me, go look, and then give their Opinion.